



REMARKS

Claims 1-55 are pending in the application. By this Amendment, Applicant has canceled claims 13, 14, 25, and 34-37 without prejudice; and amended claims 11, 20, 21, 26, 28-30, 32, 33, 38, 42, 49, 54, and 55. Claims 1-10, 12, 15-19, 22-24, 27, 31, 39-41, 43-48, and 50-53 remain in the application without amendment.

Applicant requests reexamination and reconsideration of the application as amended.

Claims 11, 20, 21, 26, 28-30, 32, 33, 38, 42, 49, 54, and 55 have been amended for reasons other than related to patentability. For example, claims 11, 26, 28, 29, 30, 33, and 49 have been corrected for dependency; claims 20, 21, 28, 29, 32, and 33 have been corrected to recognize antecedent basis; claims 38, 42, and 54 have been corrected for conventional claim language; and claim 55 has been rewritten as an apparatus claim.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant submits that all pending claims are in condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully requests the reconsideration and reexamination of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims. Should any issues remain unresolved, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at the number provided below.

If there are any other fees due in connection with the filing of the response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 17-0026. If a fee is required for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136 not accounted for above, such an extension is requested and the fee should also be charged to our Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: January 12, 2004
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